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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

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In re Application of :
Thomas K. T. Chow :
Application No. 09/596,892 :
Filed: June 19, 2000 :
Attorney Docket No. 9905.1P7 :
:

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed January 30, 2003, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **Dismissed**.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision must be submitted within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b). This is **not** final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. ' 704.

The application became abandoned for failure to reply within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.113 to the final Office action mailed April 1, 2002, which set a reply period of three months. No extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Accordingly, the application became abandoned on July 2, 2002.

A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b)¹ must be accompanied by: (1) the required reply,² unless previously filed; (2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m); (3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional; and (4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(d)) required by 37 CFR 1.137(c). Where there is a question as to whether either the abandonment or the delay in filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.137 was unintentional, the Commissioner may require additional information. See MPEP 711.03(c)(III)(C) and (D). The instant petition lack(s) item(s) (1).

The application became abandoned for failure to timely file a reply within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.113 to the final Office action of April 1, 2002. The proposed reply required for consideration of a petition to revive must be a Notice of Appeal (and appeal fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(b)), an amendment that *prima facie* places the application in condition for allowance, or the filing of a continuing application. See MPEP 711.03(c)(III)(A)(2). Since the amendment submitted does not *prima facie* place the application in condition for allowance, the reply required must be a Notice of Appeal (and appeal fee) or the filing of a continuing application. Alternatively, the reply requirement may be met by the filing of a submission under 37 CFR 1.129(a) if the above-identified application is eligible for such transitional practice.

37 CFR 1.137(c) requires a terminal disclaimer dedicating to the public a terminal part of the term of any patent granted on the above-identified application or any patent granted on any continuing application that contains a specific reference under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121, or 365(c) to the above-identified application. Since the application is a utility or plant application filed before June 8, 1995, a terminal disclaimer is not required. Accordingly, the terminal disclaimer filed with the instant petition is unnecessary. Therefore, petitioner may request a refund of the \$110 fee by writing the Office of Finance, Refund Section. A copy of this decision should accompany petitioner's request.

¹ As amended effective December 1, 1997. See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53194-95 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 119-20 (October 21, 1997).

² In a nonprovisional application abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may be met by the filing of a continuing application. In an application or patent, abandoned or lapsed for failure to pay the issue fee or any portion thereof, the required reply must be the payment of the issue fee or any outstanding balance thereof.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

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Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Latrice Bond at (703) 308-6911.



Latrice Bond
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For Patent Examination Policy

Attachment: Courtesy Copy of Advisory Action